OFCM

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR
FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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July 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Holders of Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1
Surface Weather Observations and Reports

FROM: Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

SUBJECT: Change 2 to Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1
Effective September 1, 2005

The attached Change 2 to Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1 (FMH-1), *Surface Weather Observations and Reports,* consists of pen and ink annotations to the original publication, dated December 1995, that (a) update outdated acronyms, (b) revise the frequency snow depth measurements, and (c) add clarifying remarks to the Water Equivalent of Snow on the Ground paragraph.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Paragraph 1.5

Change: "Working Group for Surface Observations (WG/SO)"
To: "Working Group for Atmospheric Observing Systems (WG/AOS)"

Paragraph 1.6.a

Change: "WG/SO"
To: "WG/AOS"

Paragraph 1.6.b

Change: "WG/SO"
To: "WG/AOS"

Paragraph 1.7

Change: "WG/SO"
To: "WG/AOS"

Chapter 12 Coding

Paragraph 12.7.2a(3)(d) Snow Depth on Ground (4/sss)

Delete: "At designated stations, the total snow depth on the ground group shall be coded in the 0000 and 1200 UTC observation whenever there is more than a trace of snow on the ground. It shall be coded in the 0600 and 1800 UTC observation if there is more than a trace of snow on the ground and more than a trace of precipitation (water equivalent) has occurred within the past 6 hours."

Replace with: "At designated stations, the total snow depth on the ground group shall be coded in the 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 UTC observations whenever there is more than a trace of snow on the ground."

Paragraph 12.7.2a(3)(e) Water Equivalent of Snow on Ground (933RRR)

Add as the last sentence: "This value is never estimated, ratios (e.g., 10 to 1) or temperature/snow water equivalent tables are not to be used to determine water equivalency of snow for this group."